

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2233

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, CD

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. POST PLANS APPROACH GOC WITHIN WEEK ALONG LINES PARA 2
REFTEL.

2. SECURITY AT CHAD'S SOLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NDJAMENA,
HAS TIGHTENED CONSIDERABLY FROM ZERO IN MID-1975. GENDARMES,
OFTEN WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS, SCREEN CARS ENTERING AIRPORT PARKING
LOT. CHECKS OF CARRY-ON LUGGAGE HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED. TRANSIT
PASSENGERS IN THEORY RESTRICTED TO SEPARATE AREA IN WHICH OTHERS
NOT ALLOWED. ONLY CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ALLOWED BY RULES
ONTO RUNWAY TO GREET ARRIVING PASSENGERS. BUT IN PRACTICE,
APPLICATION OF RULES IS WIDELY INCONSISTENT. GUARDS AT PARKING
LOT ENTRANCES USUALLY PRESENT ONLY AROUND FLIGHT ARRIVAL TIMES;
BACK ENTRANCE OFTEN LIGHTLY GUARDED OR NOT AT ALL; ANOTHER BACK
ENTRANCE DIRECTLY TO RUNWAY USUALLY DESERTED AND WIDE OPEN.
GUARDS USUALLY, THOUGH NOT ALWAYS, WAVE CARS WITH DIP PLATES
BY WITHOUT LOOKING INSIDE. CHECKS OF CARRY-ON LUGGAGE ARE
OFTEN CURSORY (NO METAL-DETECTION DEVICES) AND SOMETIMES NON-
EXISTENT. IN PRACTICE, RUNWAY IS WIDE OPEN, WITH INCOMPLETE
FENCE ON BACK SIDE, AND ANYBODY COULD GET TO PLANES, THROUGH
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WIDE UNWATCHED AREAS IF NOT BY TALKING WAY PAST GUARDS. TRANSIT

PASSENGERS HAVE FREE ACCESS TO UPSTAIRS BALCONY OVERLOOKING ENTIRE MAIN WAITING ROOM, AND DOOR BETWEEN TRANSIT BAR AND PUBLIC BAR OFTEN OPEN AND UNGUARDED. IN SHORT, WHILE GOC CLEARLY WANTS TO TIGHTEN AIRPORT SECURITY, IT HAS NEITHER THE EQUIPMENT NOR THE TRAINED PERSONNEL TO DO SO.

3. THOUGH NO SCHEDULED AMERICAN CARRIERS USE NDJAMENA AIRPORT, USUALLY ON OR TWO PRIVATE AIRCRAFT OF U.S. REGISTRY ON APRON. AMERICANS ARE AT AIRPORT MEETING FLIGHTS ALMOST EVERY DAY, AND AMCITS, INCLUDING THOSE IN TRANSIT PARIS-BANGUI-KINSHASA, ARE ON NEARLY EVERY SCHEDULED FLIGHT EXCEPT AEROFLOT AND SUDAN AIRWAYS. PLANES FROM THESE TWO AIRLINES ARE REGULARLY ON GROUND AT SAME TIME AS UA (FRENCH) PLANE. NDJAMENA HAS DIRECT SERVICE TO TRIPOLI, LUANDA, AND KHARTOUM.

4. ONLY PROBLEM POST HAS HAD TO DATE WITH GOC AIRPORT SECURITY HAS BEEN LACK OF CLARITY AND CONSISTENCY IN REGULATIONS AND IN APPLICATION, AND EFFORTS NEEDED TO EXTRICATE PASSPORTS NORMALLY CONFISCATED FROM ALL INCOMING PASSENGERS.

5. EMB BELIEVES GOC WOULD BE VERY RECEPTIVE TO TECHNICAL ADVICE FROM FAA SECURITY SPECIALIST IF AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO GOC. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY WITH GOC. EMB WOULD, OF COURSE, STRESS PROBABILITY THAT VISIT WOULD BE SOME MONTHS IN FUTURE IF PROPOSAL APPROVED.DWYER

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